

September 2015

Lewis T. McKenney Correspondence

Lewis Timothy McKenney 1856-1947

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
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MCKENNEY, Lewis T

1856 -

Sketch of the Life of Lewis T. McKenney

I was born in the town of Dexter, the nineteenth of May, 1856.

In the words of Sparticus, the Roman gladiator, "My early life ran quiet as the brooks by which I sported!" and I certainly did sport beside those brooks for I enjoyed trout fishing then and still do.

The ten years of my life from 16 to 26 are related in the story "A Bare Foot Boy Goes to College" in Memories of Maine.

During those ten years, my manhood developed physically and mentally and on the foundation then layed has been builded my life structure.

The first three years, following my graduation from Bates College in 1882, I was in the book business as general agent and manager, then followed thirteen years in public school work-five years as principal of high schools, and eight years as Superintendent of Schools.

Since then, for thirty years or more I have been more or less successful in the Real Estate business in Boston.

In 1889 I wooed and won the beautiful daughter of James N. Cushing, Charleston, Maine. The result of that union was three splendid sons, who surpass their father both in physical and mental stature. The oldest, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a Captain in the World War, and, sad to say, is buried in France. The second son is the head of a department in a large manufacturing company near Boston. He is an able speaker and delivers addresses at Boston University and other Colleges and before business men's organizations. The youngest is a little fellow, standing six feet, four inches, in his bathing suit. He is

employed in the wholesale department of a large meat company in Boston, and can handle a quarter of beef as easily as I can a roast chicken.

Although now nearly four score years of age, I still enjoy the good things of this earth, among which is hunting big game in the North Woods.

- Contributed by Mr. McKenney in response to our request for biographical material.

November 16, 1934

Mr. Lewis T. McKenney
153 Brighton Ave.
Brighton, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

We have entered an order for MEMORIES OF MAINE, the announcement of which we noticed in The Portland (Maine) Telegram last summer. This article mentions the fact that you are a Maine-born author, and of course we are immediately interested.

Some years ago we started what is now known as the Maine Author Collection. This exhibit has increased rapidly in size, importance and value, now numbering several hundred autographed volumes. Some of the authors have been kind enough to inscribe their works, also.

Wont you please write us in regard to your life? Were you born in Maine? Where, when? And please tell us about your education, career, and subsequent life. We shall appreciate any information you may care to give us, and it will be promptly inserted in our Maine Author biographical file.

We shall of course want you to autograph your book, if you will be so kind. As soon as we receive it from the publisher, we shall send it to you, hoping that you may take as much pride in autographing MEMORIES OF MAINE for the Maine Author Collection, as we will in receiving it.

Very truly yours

lm

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

Secretary

The Employers' Fire Insurance Company
of
Boston, Massachusetts.



EDWARD C. STONE
PRESIDENT

LEWIS T. MCKENNEY

AGENT

153 ~~ST~~ BRIGHTON AVENUE
ALLSTON, MASS.

Nov. 17, '34

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,
State Librarian,
Augusta Maine,
Dear Mr. Dunnack:—

In response to your request
for a sketch of my life, ~~to~~ I am
enclosing it, and hope it will
be what you want.

I shall be pleased to autograph
Memories of Maine, when received
and return it to you.

I have published no other
books. The titles ~~are~~ mentioned in
the book are magazine articles.

Very sincerely,
Lewis T. McKenney

November 24, 1934

Mr. Lewis T. McKenney
153 Brighton Ave.
Brighton, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

MEMORIES OF MAINE has been received, with your kind autograph. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and thank you for the book and the biographical sketch which you sent.

Both have been filed in their proper places: the book on a shelf in the Maine Author Collection, the biographical material in the file for this purpose.

May we extend to you a cordial invitation to call and inspect our collection when you are in Maine "hunting big game in the North Woods."

And again let us express our appreciation and gratitude for your splendid cooperation in regard to our Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

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MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

Secretary

Youth In Maine Is Material For McKenney Volume

New Book Contains Essays
Of Bates Graduate's
Early Life

AUG 20 1934

Another distinct contribution to the literature of Maine has been made with the recent publication of "Memories of Maine," by Lewis T. McKenney.

In this beautifully bound volume of 200 pages, the author reaches back over the years to gather material for vivid word pictures of youthful work and play in his native Pine Tree State. All told, there are some 40 essays, classified under such headings as "Fun on the Farm," "School Scraps," and "Wanderings in the Woods." Most of them are quite brief, but every one of them is composed in an easy, friendly, appealing and natural style.

Autobiographical as they are, they give an excellent picture of country life in Maine a generation or so ago, of the joys and sorrows, of the struggles and ambitions of young people of the time. Under "School Scraps" are found short pieces on life at Maine Central Institute, which the author attended, as well as a number on Bates College. In fact, the longest essay in the book, entitled "A Barefoot Boy Goes to College," not only should be something worth preserving in the historical archives of that institution, but it is inspired literature that should give courage and hope to any member of the present generation who thinks he is having a difficult time of it to secure a college education. And then the telling of undergraduates escapades is always interesting, such as the time two of the students jumped through a classroom window when the learned professor was looking elsewhere.

Later portions of the book display the man's love for the out-of-doors and for the simple life, as when he writes on Sebec Lake. He says it "expands its shining surface among the wooded hills and low mountains in very nearly the geographical center of the grand old State of Maine." He believes, further, that "as one of Maine's beauty spots Sebec Lake is unsurpassed by any body of water in the State."

Mr. McKenney writes familiarly, and so he should, for he belongs to Maine. The general catalogue of Bates College, his Alma Mater, states that he was born in Dexter in 1856, although he now resides in Massachusetts. He was graduated from Bates in 1882, receiving his degree of Master of Arts from there three years later. He then went into school work, but in 1900 went into the real estate business. He has contributed stories to the "National Sportsman," and is author of "Ivory's Wonderful Wing Shot," "The Monarch of the Glen," etc. His new book is illustrated with original nature photographs and other drawings by a son, Lewis Clayton McKenney.

September 14, 1935

Mr. Lewis T. McKenney
153 Brighton Avenue
Allston, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

We noticed a brief paragraph in a Portland paper concerning your new book, IN THE NORTH WOODS. We hope it will soon be off the press, and we also hope that you will want to inscribe a copy for our Maine Author Collection. We are eagerly anticipating its publication, and wish to extend our congratulations.

I personally regret that I was not in the library the day you called, and shall trust for "better luck next time." Sebago Lake is indeed lovely in summer, and we feel sure you enjoyed your vacation there.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary

The Employers' Fire Insurance Company
of
Boston, Massachusetts.



EDWARD C. STONE
PRESIDENT

LEWIS T. MCKENNEY

AGENT

48 ASHFORD STREET
ALLSTON, MASS.

Sept. 17, '36

*Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,
State Librarian
Augusta, Maine,*

Dear Mr. Dunnack:

*I have a second book
just received from the publisher,
as per enclosure.*

*If you want a copy for the
State Library please order it of me.
I will autograph it if you so
desire.*

*Very truly yours
Lewis T. McKenney*

THE PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCE

THE NORTH WOODS

By

LEWIS T. MCKENNEY, A.M.

Author of "Memories of Maine"

Illustrated by L. Clayton McKenney

232 PAGES

11 PICTURES

\$2.00



TIRRING STORIES of Maine's famous forest (the nation's great game preserve and Hunter's Paradise).

All lovers of the great out-doors will be interested to read the stories of its towering trees, of its original owners, its waterways, its mysteries, its denizens (fierce and friendly): thrilling hunting adventures, graphically described. More than twenty season's hunting in the Maine woods, qualifies the author to give valuable instructions on how to hunt the elusive deer, supplied under the title *"The Hunting Game."*

He was reared on a farm in northern Maine, where he acquired a knowledge of the forest trees, which he often felled for timber or cut into cord wood. In his studies of botany and onothology at *Bates*—especially in his bird walks with Professor "Johnny" Stanton—he formed an intimate acquaintance with the wild

flowers and birds that enables him to speak of them in friendly and familiar fashion, calling them by their common, often by their Indian, instead of their scientific names, making the accounts of them more interesting to the general reader.

Note the story of the tree "that was a patriarch when Columbus discovered America," and of the "first object in the United States to greet the rising sun." The biography of the King of Game Birds, and of Whiskey Jack; the defence of Sly Reynard, and the story "Sacred to Death."

THE NORTH WOODS is a finely bound cloth book of 232 pages and eleven pictures of wild life in Maine. The price is \$2.00 per copy at the book store or from the publishers.

MEADOR PUBLISHING COMPANY
324 Newbury Street
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Meador Publishing Company,
324 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

Please send me _____ —copies of THE NORTH WOODS, by Lewis T. McKenney, A.M. I send herewith \$2.00 per copy as payment.

Signed _____

Address _____

Sept. 18, 1936

Lewis T. McKenney
48 Ashford Street
Allston, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

Indeed we do want a copy of your new book, THE NORTH WOODS, for our Maine Author Collection, and we will be very grateful to you if you will inscribe a copy and send it to us with the bill.

May we congratulate you upon your second publication, and assure you that we anticipate it with pleasure.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm

SECRETARY

Sept. 23, 1936

Lewis T. McKenney
48 Ashford Street
Allston, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

We have received the inscribed copy of
THE NORTH WOODS, and thank you for your
kindness. The bill is going forward for
payment at once.

We are delighted to be able to add another
of your books to the Maine Author Collection,
and of course are especially pleased that its
subject is Maine.

Please accept our sincere thanks and
cordial invitation to visit us when you are
in Maine again.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

The Employers' Fire Insurance Company
of
Boston, Massachusetts.



EDWARD C. STONE
PRESIDENT

LEWIS T. MCKENNEY
AGENT
48 ASHFORD STREET
ALLSTON, MASS.

Oct. 5, '36

Mr. Henry E. Dumack
State Librarian,

Augusta Maine,

Dear Mr. Dumack: -

I thank you for your order
for "The North Woods." I have
not received a remittance for
it yet, and am wondering
whether the check may not have
been sent to the Publishers.

Very truly
Lewis T. McKenney

October 6, 1936

Lewis T. McKenney
48 Ashford Street
Allston, Mass.

Dear Mr. McKenney:

We are indeed sorry that you have not yet received the check for THE NORTH WOODS, but it often happens that there is a delay in the sending out of checks. There is a great deal of governmental "red tape" to each bill, but we assure you that you will receive the check, as the invoice is in your name, and not the publishers'.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

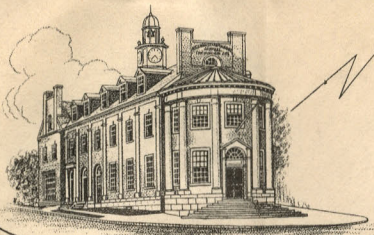
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SECRETARY

MERRIMACK MUTUAL

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

INCORPORATED 1828



LEWIS T. MCKENNEY
48 ASHFORD STREET
ALLSTON, MASS.

Andover, Massachusetts

Sept. 17 '37

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack
State Librarian
Augusta, Maine,

My dear Mr. Dunnack:-

I am sure you will be
interested to learn that the School
Community of Boston have accepted
my book, *The North Woods*, to
be used as a book of reference in
the city's public schools.

Very sincerely
Lewis T. McKenney

September 18, 1937

Mr. Lewis T. McKenney
48 Ashford Street
Allston, Massachusetts

S Dear Mr. McKenney:

Indeed we are very glad to learn that your
THE NORTH WOODS has been accepted as a reference
book in the Boston schools. Such recognition
of the interesting and valuable material contained
in this book must be deeply gratifying to you.
Please accept our sincere congratulations upon
the event.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

January 27, 1942

Mr. Lewis T. McKenney
57 Mapleton Street
Brighton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. McKenney:

Thank you very much for sending the copy of THE NEW ENGLAND PEOPLE. Ordinarily we do not accept books on approval, but this one is of course a Maine item by virtue of its author, and we shall keep it, approving the bill shortly.

Please accept our congratulations upon the publication of this book, and upon the amount of work which has very evidently been lavished in the gathering of historical details.

The Maine Author Collection boasts your two previous books, MEMORIES OF MAINE and THE NORTH WOODS. We hope that your generosity will continue, and that you will want to inscribe a gift copy for inclusion in this exhibit.

Our best wishes for the success of the book go to you.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

"No reply. Bill approved; book placed in Maine Author Collection."